

HEALTH LAW INADEQUATE

Statutes Fail to Protect the District From Contagion.

DIFFICULT TO LEGISLATE

Government Departments and Supreme Court May Vacate the Capital in Time of Epidemic, But the "Dance of Prevention" Is Lacking—Bill Prescribing Remedy.

Recent occurrences in which the District has been subjected to the dangers of infection from sources other than local have served to attract attention anew to the inadequacy of the laws of prevention, and to revive interest in the efforts heretofore made and now in contemplation by the municipality for amendment of the statutes.

Reference is made to the occasion when two passengers who had come from a foreign port upon a vessel having smallpox aboard were permitted to pass unimpeded from Baltimore to Washington by train and unimpeded with the people of both cities indiscriminately without the observance of any precaution against the contagion, and again to the case cited in a late issue of The Times, where members of a family living beyond the District line came to Washington by the street car straight from a possible contact with diphtheria contagion, which had unfortunately proved fatal to three children of the household.

Investigation shows that there is in reality no means of preventing such an occurrence as that just mentioned, and it is the purpose of the health officer to present soon for the consideration of the Commissioners, and for transmission to Congress, a bill, now being prepared, which will be so drawn as to provide an effective remedy against a repetition of the offense.

Bill Failed to Pass.

A bill was introduced in the Fifty-third Congress, under date of January 29, 1893, which it was believed would prove to be an effective remedy for the defects in the present law upon the subject. It was in a fair way to receive favorable consideration, and but for the fact that it contained a provision concerning anti-toxin, which some members interpreted as an affront to the medical profession, the measure would doubtless have passed.

The bill provided that the health officer of the District, and the employees of the health department who may be duly appointed and assigned to the duty, should have authority to enter and inspect during all reasonable hours any lot, building, street, car or public conveyance within said district; and for the prevention of the introduction and spread of contagious diseases, might quarantine and cause to be disinfected any boat, car or public conveyance whither.

Authority was also given the health officer to exclude from the District any person, animal or thing infected by contagion, or which was reasonably believed to be so infected, and to compel the isolation of such individual or animal for such length of time as might be necessary.

The penalty prescribed for resisting the authority of the health officer in any case where it might be deemed necessary to make such inspection or isolation, was a fine of not to exceed \$500, or imprisonment not to exceed one year, or both.

It is understood that the measure now being drafted, or which may be already completed, by Dr. Woodward, is similar in its provisions, and that its importance will be urged upon Congress in a special communication, which will insist upon its adoption.

The fact that Washington's domain is solely under the control of the United States has suggested the idea that a special law may be enacted for the protection of the District in these matters, which will not interfere with the interstate law and custom, but as yet no one has succeeded in getting the measure to the satisfaction of a majority of Congress.

In his last annual report Health Officer Woodward, touching the general subject, says it is necessary for every coming district to this city from foreign ports to be inspected and passed by the health department prior to entry at the customhouse.

The number of such vessels is large, but the danger of possible contagion is not necessarily proportionate.

"Owing to the small amount of such foreign trade," Dr. Woodward says, "and the absence of any serious results therefrom, the health department has been regulating the inspection and entry of such vessels has apparently been overlooked, and the captains, upon reaching this port, have allowed sailors to go at large throughout the city prior to inspection, nor is there any law to prevent such a practice."

It is declared to be a fact that no special state of affairs exists at any other National Capital, or other important or important port, in the world.

In like degree is the city without protection. It is said, against the spread of local infections. The health officer has also touched upon by Dr. Woodward, who thus discloses it:

"While it is pleasing to note the decrease in the prevalence of scarlet fever and diphtheria during the year past, twelve months is too brief a time for the determination of the cause. I would gladly attribute it to the more rigid enforcement of the law for the restriction of these diseases, and possibly it may be to some extent due to this cause."

"That recent legal interpretations of this act must be such that if such is the case, it is because of the willingness of citizens to comply therewith, or because of the force of public opinion compelling them to do so, rather than the exercise of any authority vested in the health department."

"The defects in the law, it is believed, can be corrected, if the bill to prevent the spread of contagious diseases now pending before Congress is passed without amendment."

Views It With Regret.

The health officer views with regret the absence of any appropriation for the establishment of a general disinfecting service, whereby the disinfection of the entire premises harboring contagion may be performed by a corps of trained laborers under the supervision of health inspectors. This infection, he says, when introduced to untrained labor, cannot be satisfactorily performed, and the infected premises remain a menace to public health.

In this as in other essentials to the preservation of the health of the people, Washington is said to be behind other cities of equal, or even less, importance. The futile efforts to procure a proper equipment for the health officer bacteriological laboratory is on a par with it, and the lack in both instances is due to the neglect, manifestly, of Congress to make the necessary appropriation, in the face of the fact, as abundantly evidenced by the members and their families are equally exposed to the risks, and therefore equally interested in the demand for remedial legislation.

One other particular has been noted in which the District safety has suffered neglect, in a measure, at least. It is in the lack of any provision for the disposition of the cargoes from sus-

pected vessels upon their arrival at this port, as specified in the Revised Statutes. Section 4294 provides that there shall be purchased or erected, under the orders of the President, suitable warehouses, with wharves and inclosures, where merchandise may be unladen and deposited from any vessel, which shall be subject to a quarantine or other restraint pursuant to the health laws of any State, at such convenient places therein as the safety of the public revenue and the observance of such health laws may require.

Washington's provisions against such contingency are suggested to be sent vessels under suspicion to Fleetman's Island in the winter season, to Cape Charles in the summer season.

Officials May Run Away.

While under existing statutes the United States Supreme Court may decline to hold a stated session at the Capital and sit elsewhere during the prevalence of an epidemic, and in case of the existence in Washington of a contagion of proportions to justify it, the President may direct the removal of any or all of the public officers to such other place or places as he shall deem most safe and convenient, there seems to be a lack of the local "dance of prevention," which is popularly believed to be superior to a "dance of cure."

The provisions of the statutes affecting the more serious contagions, as cholera, typhoid fever, smallpox or plague, are specific, and apply to each State and Territory equally.

It is in effect, as passed March 27, 1890, that whenever it shall be made to appear to the President that any of the diseases enumerated exist in any State or Territory, or in the District of Columbia, and that there is danger of the spread of such disease into other States, Territories or the District, he is authorized to cause the Secretary of State to promulgate such rules and regulations as, in his judgment, may be necessary to prevent the spread of such disease from one State into another, or from any State or Territory into the District, or vice versa.

Section 3 of the same act prescribes that when any contagious carrier, or officer, agent or employee of any common carrier, shall wilfully violate any of the quarantine laws, or the rules and regulations adopted for the control of infections, he shall be deemed to be guilty of a misdemeanor which is punishable by fine of not more than \$500, or imprisonment of not to exceed two years, or both, as the court may elect.

The officials complain, however, of the lack of legislation for local benefit.

RACE ALMOST EXTINGUISHED.

Few Survivors of the South African Bushmen Left.

Chicago Chronicle.

One of the most interesting races in the world, from an ethnologist's point of view, is on the point of extinction. For many years past the bushmen of South Africa have been dwindling in numbers till the survivors may almost be counted on one's fingers. The bushman is first cousin to the diminutive race of pygmies found by the great explorer Du Chailu in the coastlands of western Africa, near the equator, and closely resembles the dwarfs found by Stanley in the great African forest. In the past the bushmen are the remnants of the aboriginal race of Africa which has been driven into the corners of the African continent by successive invasions of Hottentots, Bantu and negro tribes. Their existence in Africa is mentioned as far back as 1850 by Andrew Bostell, one of the earliest explorers of the interior. He describes them as "no bigger than boys of twelve years old, but very thick, and live only upon flesh, which they kill in the woods with their bows and their darts."

The bushman is one of the lowest types of humanity, but many degrees removed from the animal. He is of small stature, but dwarfed, and, with high cheek bones, his deep-set eyes have an exceedingly cunning look. Bushmen are troglodytes, and remaining in their caves by day, only forth at night to hunt for their sustenance, and to make the nearest factory by slaying their stock with arrows composed of reeds tipped with bone or iron situated in the fatal juice of the euphorbia tree mixed with the poison of snakes and spiders. So troublesome did they become in Natal during the early days of the colony that a special force was built up to hunt them out. Nottingham—where expeditions were organized against these diminutive marauders. Still later a war of extermination was waged against them by a band of farmers under the leadership of a man named the Drakensberg, who raised a force of hunters and mounted men, and succeeded in freeing themselves from this troublesome pest. Every bushman fought for himself, and they recognized no chief, much less any primitive system of government such as prevails among the Bantu race.

It is a singular thing that though so low in the social scale the bushman possesses the power of illustration totally unknown to his more civilized successors, and very creditable representations of animals, dingoes, snakes, and even scenes of hunting and battle to be found in the caves of Drakensberg, where the aboriginal race of the Bushman lived. Several of the drawings have been removed to the library at Pietermaritzburg, where they form a valuable collection for the colonial antiquary. The bushman's language is plainly composed of clicks, of which there are six distinct kinds, but it is impossible to hear one of these clicking notes to do other than to set him down as an animal. There is a local tradition in Natal that "the last of the bushmen" was a farm laborer at one of the homesteads under the Drakensberg, and, falling sick of a fever, his body was devotedly looked after by a local scientist, who, on the desired consummation, obtained his bones and forwarded them to England, where they are now exposed to public gaze in the South Kensington Museum.

Care of the Wheel.

If for any reason you decide to store your car in the winter it will save waiting and gnashing of teeth next spring if you take the precaution to apply a liberal amount of vasoline to the nickel parts of the wheel in order that the original brilliancy may be retained. Select a place free from dampness, if possible; if obliged to store your wheel in the cellar, make a flannel bag large enough to cover the entire machine except the pedals and handle bars, which, of course, should be removed. Tires will deflate when allowed to stand for any length of time. If possible suspend the machine in midair by means of ropes hung from the ceiling, through loops which can be attached to the axle. If it is already been done in Cairo and in other cities, it may be done here, for at all times the people are attached to the consecrated cemeteries of their dead and will not renounce the customary mode of interment. In many places it was rumored that plague patients were buried alive, as may sometimes happen through senseless alarm and indecent haste, and thus the horror of the distressed people was everywhere increased. In Erfurt, after the churchyards were filled, 12,000 corpses were thrown into eleven great pits, and the like might, more or less exactly, be stated with respect to all the cities of the world. In the case of Erfurt, however, the funeral ceremonies, the last consolation of the survivors, were everywhere impracticable.

In all Germany, according to a probable calculation, there seem to have died only 1,244,434 inhabitants of this city, however, was more spared than elsewhere. In the contrary, was most severely visited. It is said to have lost half its inhabitants, and this estimate is rendered credible from the immense loss of individual cities and provinces, for in Sardinia and Corsica, according to the account of the distinguished Floren-

tin, John Villani, who was himself carried off by the Black Plague, scarcely a third part of the population remained alive, and it is related of the Venetians that they engaged ships at a high rate to retreat to the islands, so that after the plague had carried off three-fourths of her inhabitants that proud city was left a "ghostly and desolate."

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Already there have been frequent clashes of arms between the outposts of the two great armies of wage-earners. Fortunately, so far, little, if any, damage has been done, but this makes the coming final conflict all the more to be dreaded. Conscious of the fact that the two great national organizations have for years been marshaling their forces in the full knowledge that the contest must result in the complete annihilation of one or the other of the great armies of organized labor, we will be a great battle, this final conflict between the two great armies of organized labor of the world, and the result will be watched with keen interest, not alone by workers of all trades and callings, but also by employers, whether they be individuals or corporations.

While the fight has been on, and for several years, both organizations have been preparing for a final struggle. It was not until within the last month, when it was decided that the national headquarters of the American Federation of Labor would be removed from Indianapolis to this city, that it became known that the National Capital would be the scene of the great conflict.

For several years the Knights of Labor headquarters have been located here, and naturally this gave their allied forces in this city great prestige. For years the Knights of Labor have been the most successful combatants every attempted evasion of this territory by the enemy, the American Federation of Labor, until about a year ago when under the leadership of Milford Spohn, the Central Labor Union was organized and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. Since that institution the Central Labor Union has constantly grown in strength and influence, and now consists of twenty-two well-organized trade unions. Among the largest of these may be mentioned the Bricklayers Union, No. 1, of Columbia Typographical Union, No. 1, all of which are very strong numerically, and swell the membership of the Central Labor Union to nearly 4,000. The Building Trades Council, of which Mr. William Silver, of the Granite Cutters' Union, is the secretary, is also composed of twelve trades unions, and is also closely allied to the American Federation of Labor. This organization, with the Central Labor Union, represents the strength of the American Federation of Labor in Washington.

On the other side are the Knights of Labor, thoroughly organized, with a membership of about 2,000, enjoying the influence which seniority always gives and the advantage of priority of occupancy of the capital territory. The position of the Knights of Labor in the District has been considerably strengthened of late by the amicable adjustment of differences between District Assembly, No. 66, and the general officers at headquarters, and the newly chosen master workman, Mr. A. Lawson, feeling the justice of his cause, is confident that the District Assembly can withstand the onslaught, no matter how great the opposing number.

Mr. Lawson has, for more than fifteen years, been prominently connected with the Knights of Labor in Washington, and is thoroughly conversant with the situation. His opponent, Mr. Spohn, president of the Central Labor Union, is also a leader of many years' experience, and the contest between these two for the mastery will be interesting and closely watched by the members of local organizations.

But, while the battle is raging between the allied forces of the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor there is another organization, the local Federation of Labor, which must not be overlooked. It is claimed to be the most powerful of all the local central bodies, having a membership of over 6,000. Mr. James F. McHugh, the president, has for years been looked upon as one of the most conservative and far-seeing local labor leaders, and his opinion has always been respected. So it is only natural to conclude that the organization represents will be a powerful factor in the fight between the opposing labor factions. An estimate of the respect and esteem in which Mr. McHugh is held by the Federation of Labor is told when it is stated for five consecutive terms he has been chosen as the chief of the Federation of Labor organization. The Federation, having no national affiliation, has always maintained an independent position so far as local labor troubles are concerned. Its membership is made up of Knights of Labor assemblies and trades unions belonging to national organizations. None of the national unions, however, are affiliated with the Central Labor Union.

Of the several labor organizations, perhaps the hardest struggle for existence has been made by the Workingmen's Library Association and Labor Bureau, with headquarters in this city, and a branch at the west. Since its establishment, over two years ago, it has been of incalculable service to the laboring men of the District, but still has not received the support of which it is so deserving. At first it received the support of many of the local organizations, and even of some of the national affiliations. Most of these associations, however, were affiliated, but just so soon as local differences became clearly defined those organizations which withdrew from the Knights of Labor, or from the local Federation, also severed their connection

THE BLACK DEATH PLAGUE

The Mortality of This Dreaded Disease Is Inconceivable.

IT RUNS TO THE MILLIONS

All the Countries of the Old World Have Been Stricken—The Steady and Inevitable Advance of the Scourge—People Flee in Vain From Its Ravages.

The Black Death, which devastated Europe in the middle ages, had several symptoms in common with the plague now raging in India, says the Sun. Swelling in the groin was an especial feature, and it was distinctively a bubonic plague. It first appeared in China about 1348, and in the course of the following years spread over India and Asia, and reached Egypt. Caravans were the principal instruments of its communication from one country to another. Ships carried the contagion from caravans, when they reached the coast, to Constantinople and other Mediterranean ports. The plague was also brought to Constantinople from the northern coast of the Black Sea, after it had depopulated the countries through which the routes of commerce passed, and it appeared as early as 1347 in Cyprus, Sicily, Messex and some of the Italian seaports. The following year it appeared in Avignon, and other cities in the south of France, from which it spread to the north of Italy and to Spain.

After spreading over France and Germany, the Black Death finally reached England in August, 1348, eleven months after its appearance in Avignon. It did not reach Sweden until November of the succeeding year, and Russia was exempt until 1351, more than three years from its first appearance in Constantinople. Russia apparently was infected from the Black Death by the sea route, and its original European focus on the Black Sea, had made the circuit of Europe.

The mortality due to the Black Death is almost inconceivable. More than 13,000,000 of people are said to have died in China, and the deaths in the rest of Asia were reported to have cleared away the population of the Black Sea, 23,400,000. Parts of India were almost depopulated, as they had failed to now. None was left alive in Carmania, and Casarea, Tartary, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Armenia, and other Asiatic countries are described as being covered with dead bodies. Five hundred thousand in Aleppo, and 22,000 people and most of the animals died in six weeks in Gaza. Cairo lost daily, when the pestilence was at its height, from 10,000 to 15,000.

Following are figures given in a treatise on the Black Death by Dr. J. E. G. Becker, of Berlin, an acknowledged authority, of the mortality in a number of European cities:

Florence	60,000
Venice	100,000
Marseilles, in one month	16,000
Siena	70,000
Paris	50,000
St. Denis	14,000
Avignon	60,000
Strasbourg	16,000
Lubeck	9,000
Bade	14,000
Erfurt	10,000
Wienau	5,000
Limburg	2,500
London, at least	100,000
Norwich	51,500

To which may be added—

Franciscan Priests, in Germany	124,434
Monks in Italy	30,000

Dr. Becker goes on to say:

"This short catalogue might, by a laborious and uncertain calculation, be multiplied, but would still be only a faint picture of the depopulation which took place. Lubeck, at that time the Venice of the North, which could no longer contain the multitudes which flocked to it, was thrown into such consternation on the report of the plague that the citizens destroyed themselves as if in frenzy. Merchants whose earnings and possessions were unbounded, and who were richly rewarded for their earthly goods, they carried their treasures to monasteries and churches and laid them at the foot of the altar, but gold had no charms for them, for it brought them death. They shut their eyes, yet still it cast to them over the convent walls. Plague would have no impediment to the last pious work to which they were driven by despair. When the plague ceased men thought they were still wandering among the dead, so appalling was the vivid aspect of the survivors. In consequence of the anxiety they felt under the unspeakable infection of the air. Many other cities probably presented a similar appearance, and it is ascertained that a great number of small country towns and villages, which have been estimated, and not too highly, at 200,000, were bereft of all their inhabitants."

"In many places in France not more than two out of twenty of the inhabitants were left alive, and the capital felt the fury of the plague, alike in the palace and the cot. Two queens, one bishop and great numbers of other distinguished persons, fell a sacrifice to it, and more than 500 a day died in the Hotel Dieu, under the faithful care of the religious women, whose disinterested courage, in this age of horror, displayed the most beautiful traits of humanity. For although they lost their lives, evidently from contagion, and their numbers were several times renewed, there was still no want of fresh candidates, who, strangers to the on-Christian fear of death, proudly devoted themselves to their holy calling."

The churchyards were soon unable to contain the dead, and were soon left without inhabitants, fell to ruins. In one, the pope found it necessary to consecrate the Rhone, that bodies might be thrown into the river without delay, as the churchyards would no longer hold them, so likewise in all populous cities extraordinary measures were adopted for the speedy disposal of the dead. In Vienna, where for some time 1,200 inhabitants died daily, the interment of corpses in the churchyards and within the churches was forthwith prohibited, and the dead were thrown arranged in layers, by thousands, in six large pits outside the city, as had already been done in Cairo and in other cities, many were secretly buried, for at all times the people are attached to the consecrated cemeteries of their dead and will not renounce the customary mode of interment. In many places it was rumored that plague patients were buried alive, as may sometimes happen through senseless alarm and indecent haste, and thus the horror of the distressed people was everywhere increased. In Erfurt, after the churchyards were filled, 12,000 corpses were thrown into eleven great pits, and the like might, more or less exactly, be stated with respect to all the cities of the world. In the case of Erfurt, however, the funeral ceremonies, the last consolation of the survivors, were everywhere impracticable.

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But, while the battle is raging between the allied forces of the American Federation of Labor and the Knights of Labor there is another organization, the local Federation of Labor, which must not be overlooked. It is claimed to be the most powerful of all the local central bodies, having a membership of over 6,000. Mr. James F. McHugh, the president, has for years been looked upon as one of the most conservative and far-seeing local labor leaders, and his opinion has always been respected. So it is only natural to conclude that the organization represents will be a powerful factor in the fight between the opposing labor factions. An estimate of the respect and esteem in which Mr. McHugh is held by the Federation of Labor is told when it is stated for five consecutive terms he has been chosen as the chief of the Federation of Labor organization. The Federation, having no national affiliation, has always maintained an independent position so far as local labor troubles are concerned. Its membership is made up of Knights of Labor assemblies and trades unions belonging to national organizations. None of the national unions, however, are affiliated with the Central Labor Union.

Of the several labor organizations, perhaps the hardest struggle for existence has been made by the Workingmen's Library Association and Labor Bureau, with headquarters in this city, and a branch at the west. Since its establishment, over two years ago, it has been of incalculable service to the laboring men of the District, but still has not received the support of which it is so deserving. At first it received the support of many of the local organizations, and even of some of the national affiliations. Most of these associations, however, were affiliated, but just so soon as local differences became clearly defined those organizations which withdrew from the Knights of Labor, or from the local Federation, also severed their connection

with the library association. A dozen or more organizations affiliated with District Assembly, No. 66, and the local Federation, seeing the benefits to be derived from such an institution, determined to keep the library association alive, and so far have succeeded. It should be said, however, that during the last five or six months the interest in the institution has been revived and from a financial standpoint has been doing fairly well. This is evidenced by the fact that within the last month, finding that their present quarters were not commodious enough to accommodate the patrons, they have decided to move to No. 609 C street, where it will have much greater conveniences than at present.

Another benefit which the workingmen of the District will derive from this change is that in the future the library rooms will be kept open in the evenings as well as during the day, and this will be a great convenience and benefit to the laboring men of the city, for those at least who were employed during the day were barred the privileges of the library at night, and as a matter of fact, although they were contributing to its support, devoted no benefit whatever. The fact that the laboring rooms were not kept open in the evening was its greatest drawback and influenced many of the local organizations in withholding their financial support, for under such circumstances their members would receive no benefits. The rooms at the new quarters are now being repaired, and when finished will not only be attractive, but also sufficiently large to accommodate even a greater number of the members of organized labor than frequents the library association. The fact that the reading rooms will be, in the future, kept open evenings will also encourage new subscribers to its support, both from individuals and labor organizations.

Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101, is by long odds the strongest labor organization, numerically, in this city, and it carries with it a corresponding amount of influence and respect in all matters pertaining to organized labor with which in any way it may be connected. Mr. John D. Kehoe, the recently elected president, is a man of great personal influence. This was clearly demonstrated at the time of his selection to the position which he now holds, when, after a long and exciting campaign, he defeated his opponents and "the combine" by a handsome majority. He is rated among the "big men" of the city, and is ever watchful of the interests of organized labor, especially as regards affairs pertaining to the betterment or the advancement of the members of his craft, either individually or as an organization.

Since Mr. Kehoe was chosen the chief executive officer of Columbia Union all internal dissension has ceased, "rings, cliques and combines" have been broken and the organization is more united at the present time than it has been for years. From a financial standpoint Columbia Union is reckoned as "solid as a rock." Typographical Union, No. 6, is being paid for in regular annual installments, and if good fortune does not forsake them it will be but a short while before the last bond of indebtedness is cancelled.

Next in numerical strength and financial stability among the local labor organizations is Bricklayers' Union, No. 1. Its membership is nearly 700, in good standing, and its bank account is estimated as falling a little short of \$10,000. The bricklayers pride themselves on the care taken of their sick and out-of-work members. No member of the union, it is said, no matter how long they have been out of employment, have ever been compelled to seek aid from either public or private charity. Hundreds of dollars is expended every